THE TENTH
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image

IT WAS ABOUT A YEAR AGO WHEN IT ALL BEGAN... WELL, AT LEAST THAT'S WHEN I STARTED TO NOTICE THE CHANGES IN MY BODY.
WHAT STARTED OUT AS A MILD FEVER AND CHILLS, TURNED ME INTO A VEGETABLE FOR THE BETTER PORTION OF A MONTH.
MY POOR GRANDMA...SHE FED ME AND TOOK CARE OF ME THEN. WHEN EVERYONE ELSE THOUGHT ME DEAD, SHE HAD FAITH IN GOD THAT I WOULD BE OKAY.
I BELIEVED IT WAS THAT FAITH IN GOD THAT HELPED PULL ME BACK TO HEALTH. BUT I'M TELLIN' YOU NOW... THAT COULDN'T BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH.
IT WAS SOMETHIN' ELSE... SOMETHIN' EVIL...
I HAD TO LEAVE GRANDMA'S HOUSE FOR FEAR THAT I WOULD UNINTENTIONALLY HURT HER...OR EVEN KILL HER. YOU SEE...WHEN THE MOON BECOMES FULL...I CANNOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS.
THIS IS WHEN I AND ALL THE OTHERS OUT THERE LIKE ME, BECOME...
WEREWOLVES.
PRINTED IN CANADA

AN OBJECT FALLS FROM THE SKY OVER CORK, IRELAND.

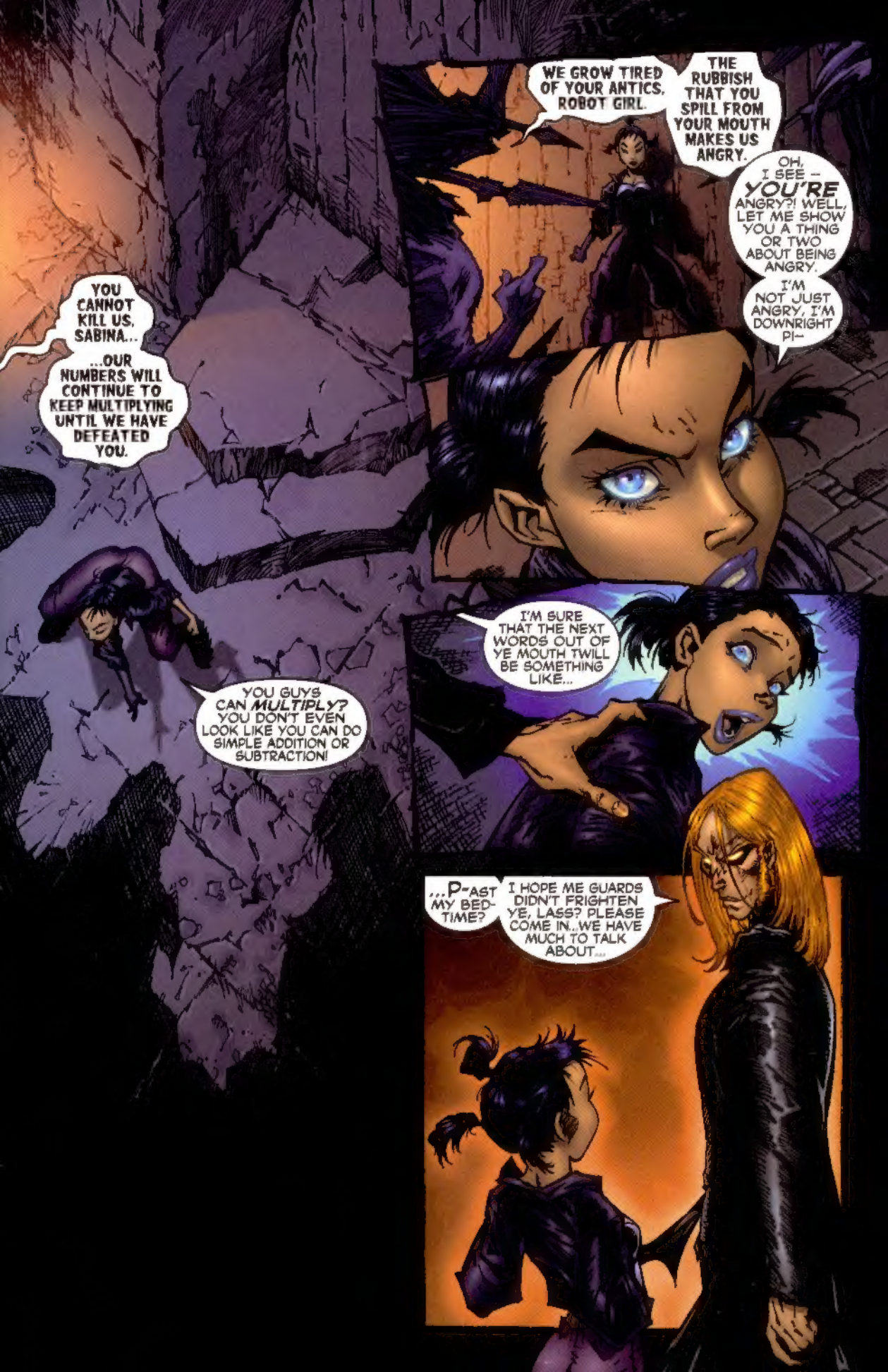
SHKAA RAAAACKK

IT APPEARS TO PICK UP SPEED AS IT GETS CLOSER TO THE GROUND, BUT THIS MAKES NO DIFFERENCE...

THOOMPH
IT HAS ALREADY BEEN DETECTED.
THAKK
THAKKK
THEY DIDN'T TELL ME THAT I'D HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS CRAP!

ZOMBIES!
I HATE ZOMBIES!
WE HAVE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, SABINA.
MY NAME'S NOT SABINA ANYMORE...

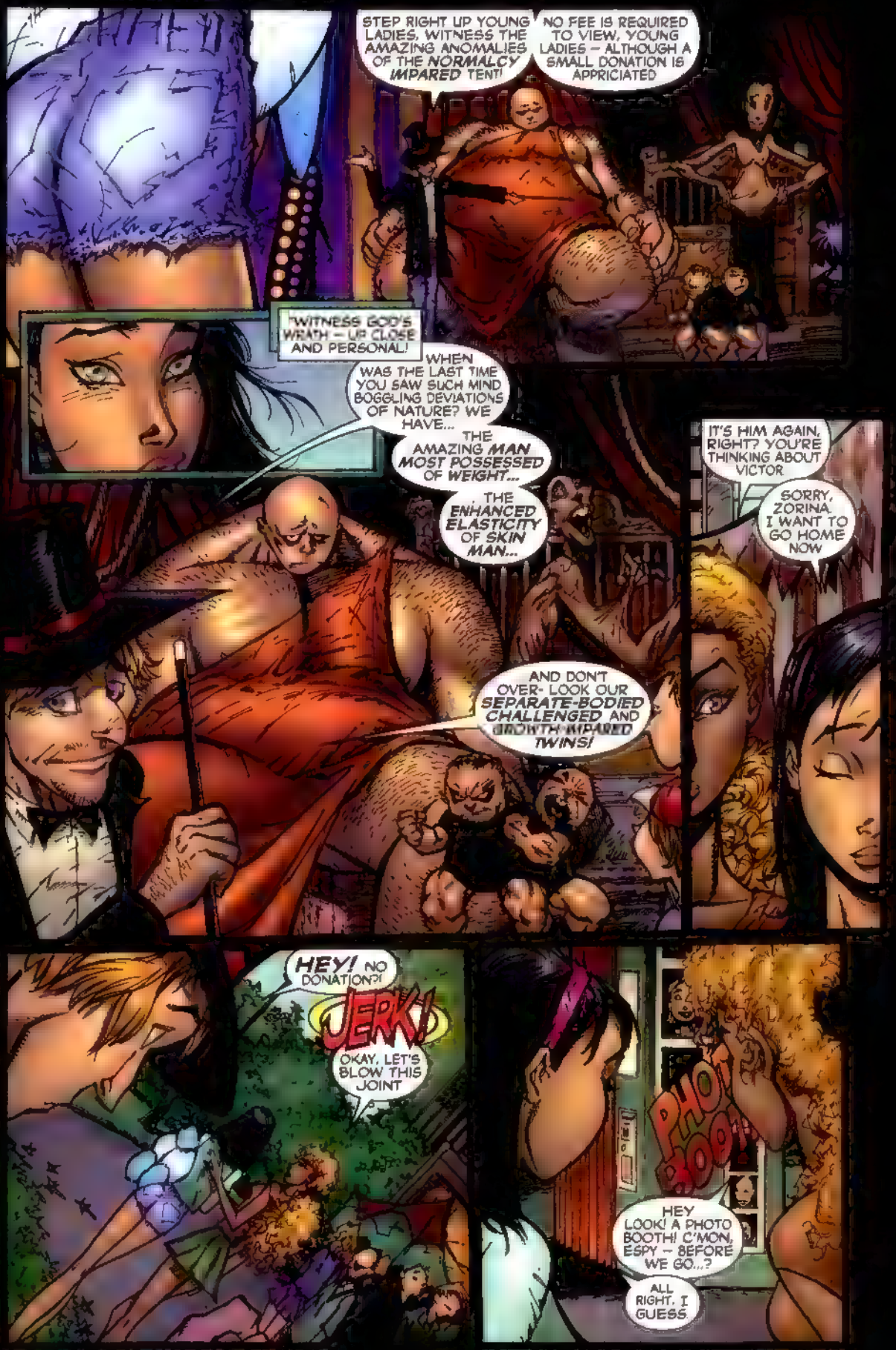
...IT'S ADRENALYNN!
AND I NEED TO SPEAK WITH YOUR MASTER.
SQUIL SHH
CRACKK
SO THE SOONER YOU GET OUT OF MY WAY AND LET ME DO MY BUSINESS...
...THE SOONER I'LL STOP KILLING YOU!
FLSHHHSK


WE GROW TIRED OF YOUR ANTICS, ROBOT GIRL.
THE RUBBISH THAT YOU SPILL FROM YOUR MOUTH MAKES US ANGRY.
OH, I SEE – YOU'RE ANGRY?! WELL, LET ME SHOW YOU A THING OR TWO ABOUT BEING ANGRY.
I'M NOT JUST ANGRY, I'M DOWNRIGHT P!–
YOU CANNOT KILL US, SABINA...
...OUR NUMBERS WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP MULTIPLYING UNTIL WE HAVE DEFEATED YOU.
YOU GUYS CAN MULTIPLY? YOU DON'T EVEN LOOK LIKE YOU CAN DO SIMPLE ADDITION OR SUBTRACTION!
I'M SURE THAT THE NEXT WORDS OUT OF YE MOUTH TWILL BE SOMETHING LIKE...
...P-AST MY BED-TIME?
I HOPE ME GUARDS DIDN'T FRIGHTEN YE, LASS? PLEASE COME IN...WE HAVE MUCH TO TALK ABOUT...

THE ROADS WERE DARK AND THE SKIES WERE CLEAR... THOSE WERE MY LAST THOUGHTS BEFORE EVERYTHING CHANGED FOR ME. AFTER THAT NIGHT, I WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME.
THE LIGHTS WERE SO BRIGHT... SO HOT, I FELT LIKE MY SKIN HAD BEEN MICROWAVED!
THEY TOOK ME WITH THEM. THEY DIDN'T FORCE ME PHYSICALLY...IT WAS AS IF THEY CONTROLLED MY BODY AS IF I WERE A REMOTE-CONTOL TOY.
THEY'VE BEEN USING ME, YOU SEE.
BUT NOT FOR THE EVERYDAY, HUMAN EXPERIMENTS THAT YOU ALWAYS HEAR ABOUT.
THEY WERE USING ME FOR *SEXUAL* EXPERIMENTS.
AND THEY'VE BEEN VISITING MY HOUSE IN TOPEKA, KANSAS ON A MORE FREQUENT BASIS AS THE MONTHS GO ON.
FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS, I'VE BEEN THE *LOVE SLAVE* OF
ALIENS.

WHOOP! WHOOP!
SO, MS. SAMANTHA DOUGHERTY... YOU'RE SAYING THAT THESE MEN FROM MARS NOT ONLY KIDNAPPED YOU AND TOOK YOU AWAY IN THEIR SPACESHIP, BUT THEY'VE BEEN REPEATEDLY VISITING YOU FOR, WHAT I THINK THE YOUNG FOLKS CALL, A BOOTY-CALL? AND FOR THREE WHOLE YEARS?
WELL, YES. I MEAN IT'S NOT ALWAYS THE SAME ALIENS NEITHER! SOMETIMES THEY'RE FROM DIFFERENT PLANETS. AT LEAST I THOUGHT THEY WERE FROM DIFFERENT PLANETS.
WHOO HOOO!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP
WOOF! WOOF!
YEAH – I GOT A QUESTION FOR SAMANTHA, THE ALIEN SEX SLAVE...
DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY HAVE ANY FEMALE ALIENS UP THERE THAT WOULD WANT ME AS THEIR SEX SLAVE?
HAHA HAHA HA!
VERY INTERESTING POINT, SIR.
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE THEIR TYPE, BUT I'LL ASK NEXT TIME.
OKAY, FOLKS...NEXT UP IS A WOMAN WHO CLAIMS THAT A MAJOR CORPORATION IS TRYING TO BRING FORTH THE APOCALYPSE –
"-- AND THEY'RE NOT EVEN CONCERNED ABOUT MAKING A PROFIT!"
"UM, SIR? I THINK WE HAVE A PROBLEM HERE...!"

"ESPY HAS BEEN THROUGH SOME ROUGH TIMES, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SHE'S EVER DISAPPEARED. SHE'S NOT THE TYPE TO RUN AWAY FROM HER PROBLEMS...SHE'S VERY STUBBORN THAT WAY
"THE LAST TIME I SAW HER WAS AT MY COLLEGE CAMPUS CARNIVAL...SHE SEEMED AS THOUGH SHE WAS COMING OUT OF HER MOST RECENT SLUMP I DON'T KNOW WHAT COULD'VE GONE WRONG TO MAKE HER RUN OFF. SHE EVEN LEFT HER CAT, ARUSA, BEHIND...THAT'S WHAT MAKES ME THINK SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED!"
YOU HAVE TO ADMIT, ESPY – YOU'RE GRATEFUL THAT I DRAGGED YOU OUT OF THE ROOM, GET A LITTLE SUNLIGHT ON YOUR FACE. OF COURSE I ONLY DID IT BECAUSE I AM THE BEST FRIEND IN THE ENTIRE WORLD. BUT THERE'S NO REASON TO KEEP BRINGING THAT UP, IS THERE?
HERE... HAVE A LICK.
UH, THAT'S OKAY. I'M NOT HUNGRY
"SHE WAS ALWAYS CONCERNED ABOUT HOW OTHERS PERCEIVED HER. SHE ALWAYS FELT LIKE A SORE THUMB.
"SHE COULDN'T TELL IF GUYS WERE CHECKING HER OUT, OR IF THEY WERE LOOKING AT HER AS IF SHE WERE A FREAK."
SUIT YOURSELF, THEN. I LOVE COTTON CANDY, THE SMELL OF ROASTED PEANUTS. THAT'S WHAT MAKES THE CARNIVAL ATMOSPHERE SO NICE. IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M A KID AGAIN.
YOU MEAN YOU'RE NOT A KID?
$1 BUCK 4 BALLS


STEP RIGHT UP YOUNG LADIES, WITNESS THE AMAZING ANOMALIES OF THE NORMALCY IMPARED TENT!
NO FEE IS REQUIRED TO VIEW, YOUNG LADIES – ALTHOUGH A SMALL DONATION IS APPRICIATED
WITNESS GOD'S WRATH – UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL!
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW SUCH MIND BOGGLING DEVIATIONS OF NATURE? WE HAVE...
THE AMAZING MAN MOST POSSESSED OF WEIGHT...
THE ENHANCED ELASTICITY OF SKIN MAN...
AND DON'T OVER- LOOK OUR SEPARATE-BODIED CHALLENGED AND GROWTH-IMPARED TWINS!
IT'S HIM AGAIN, RIGHT? YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT VICTOR.
SORRY, ZORINA. I WANT TO GO HOME NOW
HEY! NO DONATION?!
JERK!
OKAY, LET'S BLOW THIS JOINT
PHOTO BOOTH
HEY LOOK! A PHOTO BOOTH! C'MON, ESPY – BEFORE WE GO...?
ALL RIGHT. I GUESS

SMILE, ESPY. A PICTURE SAYS A THOUSAND WORDS.
AND WHAT WILL THIS PICTURE SAY?
THIS PICTURE WILL SAY SOMETHING LIKE THIS –
BLAAHAHA!
HEE, HEE!
"THAT WAS A MONTH AGO I HAVE NOT SEEN OR HEARD FROM HER SINCE
"SHE COULD BE ANYWHERE
50 Points
50
"WHEREVER YOU ARE, ESPY, IF YOU ARE WATCHING THIS. PLEASE COME BACK OR AT LEAST CALL. I'M VERY WORRIED ABOUT YOU."
BOP-A-MOVE

3-2-1... YOU'RE ON!
WELL, NOW WE KNOW A LITTLE ABOUT ZORINA'S FRIEND. IF ANYONE KNOWS WHERE THIS ESPERANZA GAL IS, PLEASE CALL US HERE AT THE STATION AND WE'LL BE SURE TO PASS IT ALONG TO ZORINA.
AND NOW ZORINA, HOW ABOUT THIS CORPORATION THAT'S TRYING TO DESTROY THE WORLD. WE WERE TOLD YOU HAVE QUITE A DISTURBING TALE TO TELL. WHAT'S THE SCOOP, BECAUSE WE HERE AT "STRANGER THINGS HAPPEN" WANT TO KNOW !
WELL, GEE – SORRY IF I'M BORRING YOU WITH MY CONCERNS ABOUT MY MISSING BEST FRIEND, CREEP
AFTER ALL, WHO'S SHE, BESIDES THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE THE WORLD...?!
NOW IF YOU'LL ALL SHUT UP AND LISTEN QUIETLY, I'LL EXPLAIN EVERY-THING YOU NEED TO KNOW
BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU...YOU PROBABLY WON'T BELIEVE ME
SIR! SHE'S GOING TO DO IT! DEAR GOD, SHE'S GOING TO DO IT!
VROOOMM

"IT ALL BEGINS WITH A MAN YOU ALL SHOULD KNOW. HIS NAME IS RHAZES DARKK, THE FOUNDER OF THE DARKKLON CORPORATION.

"HE'S SOME KIND OF ALIEN BEING WHO'S TRYING TO SAVE HIS EXTINCT RACE BY USING EARTH AS A NEW HOME.

"HE BROUGHT FROM HIS HOMELAND TEN OTHER ASTRONAUTS WHO DIED IN THEIR SHIP'S CRASH LANDING ON EARTH. THESE TEN BEINGS WERE CARRYING THE VITAL TEN ELEMENTS OF THEIR HOME PLANET.

"HE'S PLANTED THOSE SEEDS OF ALIEN LIFE INTO TEN HUMAN BEINGS.

"ONE OF THOSE HUMANS, IS OUR FRIEND VICTOR DE LEON. HE HAS BEEN BATTLING THE TRANSFORMATION THAT IS CAUSED BY THE IMPLANTS OF RHAZES DARKK! SOMETIMES HE HAS TO DRINK HUMAN BLOOD TO KEEP FROM TURNING INTO A CRAZED BEAST.

"ESPY AND VICTOR HAVE SOME STRANGE CONNECTION TO EACH OTHER. SHE WAS BORN WITH SLIGHT TELEKINETIC ABILITIES, BUT SINCE SHE MET UP WITH H.M. ALL OF A SUDDEN SHE'S DEVELOPED THESE "SUPER POWERS"..!

"I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW WE DEFEATED DARKKLON THE FIRST TIME", SINCE IT MIGHT INCRIMINATE US, OR SOMETHING.

*Note: The implosion of Darkklon and Springdale -- see the Abuse of Humanity Mini-Series! -bu

"WE FOUND OUT LATER THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS SECRETLY SPONSORING RHAZES DARKK'S AGENDA, BUT THEY BACK-STABBED H.M AND STOLE SOME OF HIS TECHNOLOGY FOR USE IN A TOP-SECRET, UNITED STATES WEAPONS PROGRAM!

"THESE ERRORS BY RHAZES SPAWNED A MUTINY AMONGST SOME OF THE TEN BEINGS HE TRANSFORMED.

"GOZZA, WHO IS PROBABLY RHAZES' BIGGEST THREAT OVERTHREW HIM AND TOOK OVER AS THE NEW LEADER OF HIS PEOPLE'S CAUSE.

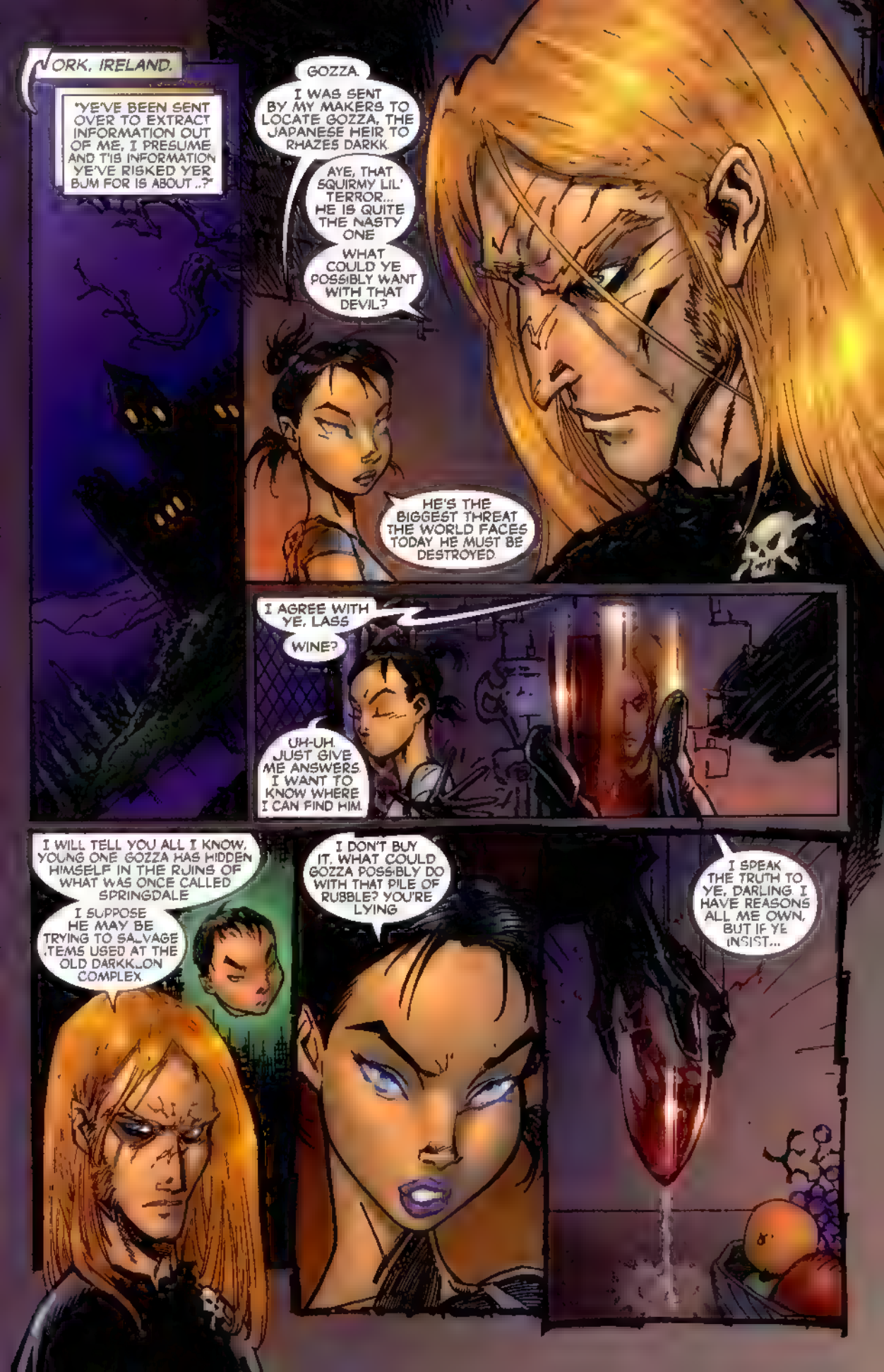
"GOZZA SUCCEEDED IN KILLING RHAZES.

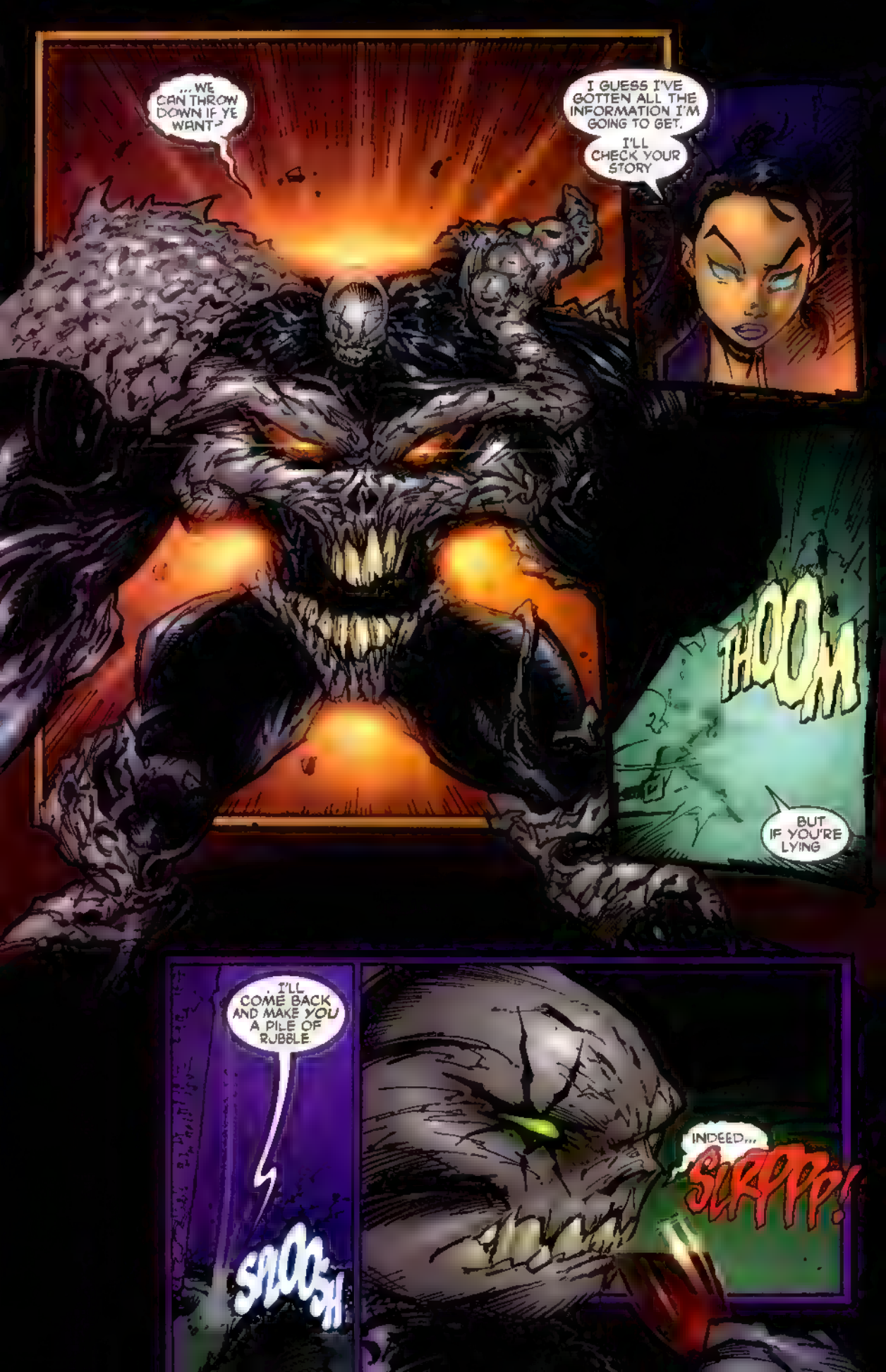
"BUT NOT BEFORE HE PERSUADED VICTOR, THE TENTH BEING, INTO JOINING HIS SIDE.

"SINCE THEN, ESPERANZA HAS BEEN TOTALLY DISTRAUGHT. SHE FEELS AS IF SHE IS TO BLAME FOR VICTOR'S RETURN TO EVIL.

"I FEEL AS IF MAYBE ESPY IS SEARCHING FOR VICTOR.

"I FEAR FOR HER LIFE"
SCREEECH
GOOD LORD, SHE'S DONE IT
MEET ME AROUND THE BACK. I GOT TO GET HER OUT OF THERE!
UH, YEAH. I GOT A QUESTION FOR ZORINA...
...HOW DO YOU WANT TO DIE?!!


CORK, IRELAND.
"YE'VE BEEN SENT OVER TO EXTRACT INFORMATION OUT OF ME, I PRESUME AND T'IS INFORMATION YE'VE RISKED YER BUM FOR IS ABOUT..?"
GOZZA.
I WAS SENT BY MY MAKERS TO LOCATE GOZZA, THE JAPANESE HEIR TO RHAZES DARKK.
AYE, THAT SQUIRMY LIL' TERROR... HE IS QUITE THE NASTY ONE
WHAT COULD YE POSSIBLY WANT WITH THAT DEVIL?
HE'S THE BIGGEST THREAT THE WORLD FACES TODAY. HE MUST BE DESTROYED.
I AGREE WITH YE, LASS
WINE?
UH-UH. JUST GIVE ME ANSWERS. I WANT TO KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND HIM.
I WILL TELL YOU ALL I KNOW, YOUNG ONE. GOZZA HAS HIDDEN HIMSELF IN THE RUINS OF WHAT WAS ONCE CALLED SPRINGDALE
I SUPPOSE HE MAY BE TRYING TO SALVAGE ITEMS USED AT THE OLD DARKKON COMPLEX.
I DON'T BUY IT. WHAT COULD GOZZA POSSIBLY DO WITH THAT PILE OF RUBBLE? YOU'RE LYING
I SPEAK THE TRUTH TO YE, DARLING. I HAVE REASONS ALL ME OWN, BUT IF YE INSIST...

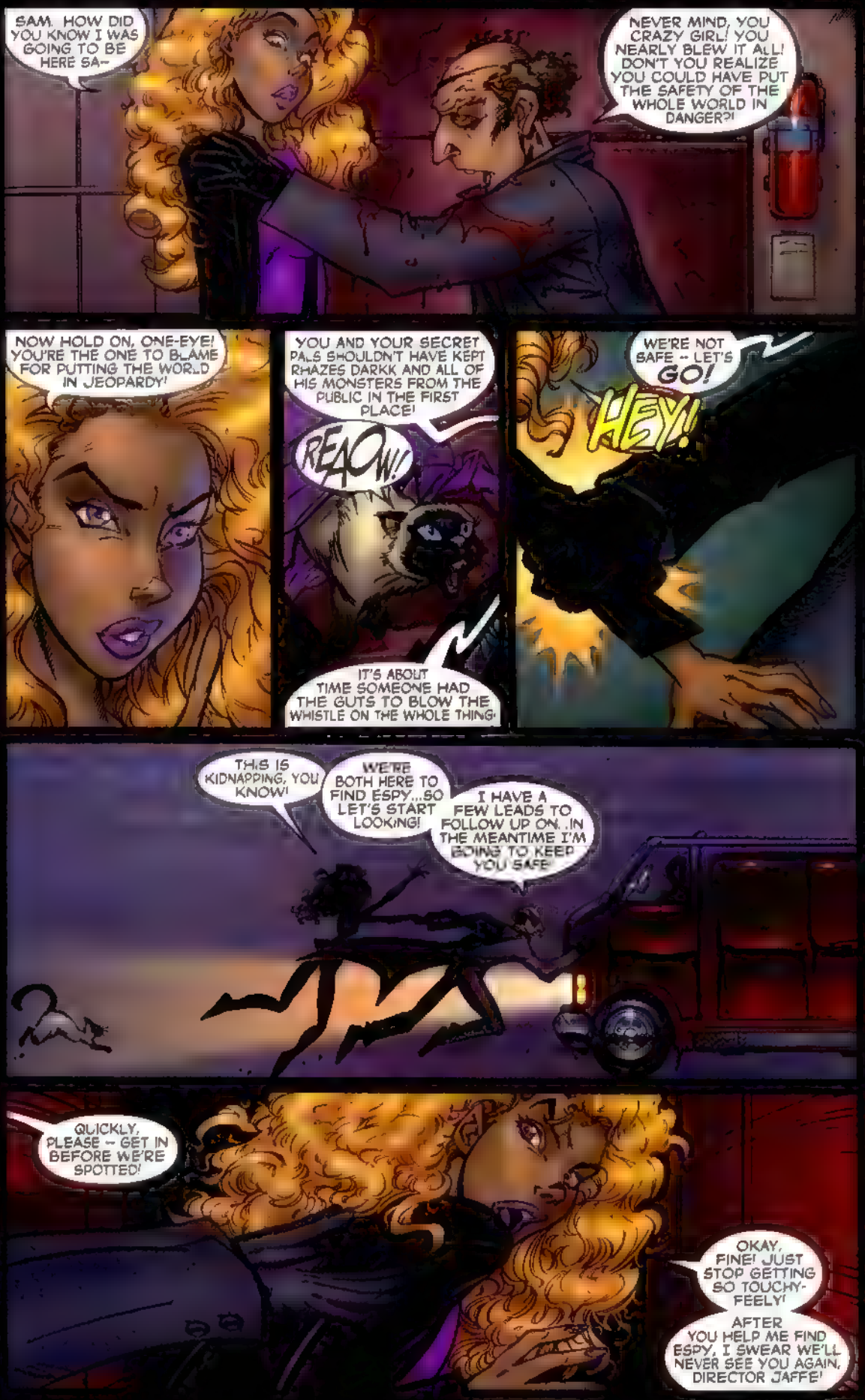

...WE CAN THROW DOWN IF YE WANT?
I GUESS I'VE GOTTEN ALL THE INFORMATION I'M GOING TO GET.
I'LL CHECK YOUR STORY
THOOM
BUT IF YOU'RE LYING
I'LL COME BACK AND MAKE YOU A PILE OF RUBBLE
SKOOSH
INDEED...
SLRPPP!

WAVE BYE-BYE TO THE CAMERA, SLUT!
SINCE YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO KEEP YOUR BIG MOUTH SHUT, I'LL HAVE TO SHUT IT FOR YOU --
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU?!
--PERMANENTLY!

ZORINA! GET AWAY FROM IT! NOW!
SAM! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
ROAAARRGH!
ZORINA -- TRY TO DUCK... I'M GOING TO SHOOT IT!
THE HELL YOU ARE!
BLURP
SLAM
OHH!
I-I'M STUCK, ZORINA. GET OUT OF HERE WHILE HE'S DISTRACTED!

NO, SAM --
-- I'M NOT LEAVING WITHOUT YOU!
-- YOU AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE!
ZORINA. FIND MY GUN. IT WAS KNOCKED LOOSE.
IT'S -- UGHN! -- SOMEWHERE ON THE FLOOR. !
OH, MY GOD!
YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, SISTER --
IT'S UNDER HIS ASS! EEEWW!
STOP FOOLING AROUND AND GRAB IT -- UHGNN! HURRY -- I CAN'T BREATH!
IT-IT'S STUCK! I CAN HARDLY PUT MY FINGER ON THE TRIGGER!
I'M TRYING TO, SAM.
KA
BLAMMN

UH, SAM...? WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
I'M NOT SURE BUT I HAVE MY HUNCHES. SOMEONE KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO BE HERE.
THIS THING WAS UNDOUBTEDLY CREATED BY THE SAME DIVISION THAT MADE LASTIC.
THIS IS PROOF THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S SECRET WEAPONS PROGRAM IS STILL TINKERING WITH DARKK-TECH*.
AREN'T THEY AFRAID OF GETTING EXPOSED ON NATIONAL TV BY SICKING THIS FAT SLOB ON ME?
YOU HAVE NO IDEA THE PEOPLE THAT WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE, MS. FINE. THESE MEN CAN DO WHATEVER THEY WANT AND FIND A "RATIONAL" EXPLANATION FOR EVEN THE MOST IRRATIONAL OF CIRCUMSTANCES.
*Rhazes DarkK's technology -- the ability to merge cells from different life-forms to make up a new one. -TDNY!


SAM. HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS GOING TO BE HERE SA--
NEVER MIND, YOU CRAZY GIRL! YOU NEARLY BLEW IT ALL! DON'T YOU REALIZE YOU COULD HAVE PUT THE SAFETY OF THE WHOLE WORLD IN DANGER?!
NOW HOLD ON, ONE-EYE! YOU'RE THE ONE TO BLAME FOR PUTTING THE WORLD IN JEOPARDY!
YOU AND YOUR SECRET PALS SHOULDN'T HAVE KEPT RHAZES DARKK AND ALL OF HIS MONSTERS FROM THE PUBLIC IN THE FIRST PLACE!
REACW!!
IT'S ABOUT TIME SOMEONE HAD THE GUTS TO BLOW THE WHISTLE ON THE WHOLE THING!
WE'RE NOT SAFE -- LET'S GO!
HEY!
THIS IS KIDNAPPING, YOU KNOW!
WE'RE BOTH HERE TO FIND ESPY...SO LET'S START LOOKING!
I HAVE A FEW LEADS TO FOLLOW UP ON. IN THE MEANTIME I'M GOING TO KEEP YOU SAFE!
QUICKLY, PLEASE -- GET IN BEFORE WE'RE SPOTTED!
OKAY, FINE! JUST STOP GETTING SO TOUCHY-FEELY!
AFTER YOU HELP ME FIND ESPY, I SWEAR WE'LL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN, DIRECTOR JAFFE!

NOT TOO FAR AWAY...
I'M SORRY, YOUNG LADY BUT FLOORS 22-25 HAVE BEEN UNDER CONSTRUCTION FOR THE LAST 3 MONTHS. A MR. RHAZES DARKK HAS BEEN RENOVATING THE PROPERTIES HE OWNS UP THERE I'M SORRY BUT YOU CAN'T GO UP.
Oh.
ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVE THE RIGHT ADDRESS?
I. Uh...
SLAM!
OH, SILLY ME! DID I SAY I WAS EXPECTED IN APARTMENT 2202? I MEANT TO SAY 2002! SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE. I'LL JUST SEE MYSELF UP, THEN, OKAY?
HEY, LADY! YOU CAN'T GO UP -- I HAVE TO CALL THE APARTMENT FIRST --
I'LL JUST BE A MINUTE WATCH MY BAG PLEASE?
HEY!
HEY, LADY!
EXCUSE ME
THERE IS NO EXCUSE !
14 13 16 15 18 17 20 19 22 21 24 23 26 25
DING
YOUNG LADY -- LIKE THE MAN TOLD YOU DOWN-STAIRS THE NEXT FLOORS ARE CLOSED! GO BACK TO WHERE YOU BELONG!
SHUT UP!
DING 21 24 23 26 DING DING
GREAT! I'M STUCK.

SNIK
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO CLIMB FROM HERE!
I CAN MAKE IT, IT'S ONLY TWO STORIES
I HEAR RATS BUT WAY UP HERE?!
SCREE SCREE SCREE
NO THEY MUST BE BATS THAT'S IT, THEY'RE BATS, THAT'S ALL
SCREE SCREE SCREE
IT SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE GETTING CLOSER
SCREE SCREE SCREE SCREE SCREE
WHERE THE HECK ARE YOU, ALREADY?!
HMMM. I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING..
I SCARED THEM OFF

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THE TENTH

The Black Embrace

The Tenth #2

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image

REE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
AAEEEE!
WHOUMPH
DAMN! MY ARM -- I THINK IT'S BROKEN...!
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM TO FIGHT!
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN.
I CAN'T BLAST THEM WAY UP HERE...THE ELEVATOR CABLES WILL SNAP FOR SURE...
THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT A GOOD WAY TO GO.

C'MON, YOU LITTLE BASTARDS! COME AND GET ME I'LL DEEP SIX US ALL TOGETHER.
SHATT
HUH --?!
TH- THEY'RE GONE BUT HOW?!
ME -- THAT'S HOW
WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE?
FUNNY I WAS ABOUT TO ASK YOU THE SAME
WHAT'S EVEN FUNNIER IS THAT YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE A REAL CELEBRITY WHEN ONE REACHES DOWN AND SLAPS YOU IN THE FACE.
I AM THE WORLD CHAMPION KICK-BOXING SENSATION
ELIXIR!

DEEP IN THE UNDERBELLY OF NEW YORK CITY'S SLUMS.
YEAH. SHE'S BEEN HERE ALL RIGHT. ME AND THE BOYS FIGURED SHE WAS JUST A PROSTITUTE OR SOMETHIN' SHE HAD TO'VE BEEN IN A WHOLE HEEP OF A FINE MESS IF SHE CHOSE TO HIDE OUT HERE.
THIS PLACE AIN'T FOR THE MEEK, HEAR? BUT SHE WAS BAD. WHOOOEE -- THAT CHIC WAS BAD!
SOME OF THE OTHER FELLAS, WELL, THEY AIN'T AS NICE AS ME, SEE. THEY TRIED TO GIVE HER A HARD TIME HER FIRST NIGHT HERE, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
STRANGEST THING I EVER DID SEE. AFTER ONE OF THEM PUT HIS HANDS WHERE THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN.
PUSHED HIM OUT THE WINDOW UP THERE ON THE THIRD FLOOR
SHE WAS FAAAAST MAN! I DIDN'T EVEN SEE HER MOVE HER ARMS, NEITHER!
THANKS, PAL. WE'LL BE GOING UP NOW. THIRD FLOOR YOU SAID, RIGHT?
REAOW!
GLRP
SHE AIN'T HERE NO MORE. BUT HELP YOURSELF
IT SMELLS LIKE PISS IN HERE, SAM. ESPY COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE STAYED HERE
...NOT EVEN FOR A MINUTE -- LET ALONE FIVE DAYS!
THE STENCH IS WHAT KEEPS THE POLICE AWAY, NO DOUBT
ESPERANZA IS A VERY SMART GIRL, ZORINA. IF SHE STAYED HERE, IT'S BECAUSE SHE FELT SHE HAD TO
I'LL START LOOKING FOR CLUES OF HER RESIDENCE. I'LL FORGIVE YOU IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY
HOWEVER, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, I'M AFRAID. I'M SURE NEITHER OF US WANT TO BE HERE WHEN THE TENANTS GET BACK.
MEAOW MEAOW
OKAY, ARUSA. LET'S GET OUT OF THE WAY SO I CAN PUT THIS DOWN --
HEY -- YOU'VE FOUND SOMETHING --!
IT'S ESPERANZA'S POCKET BOOK!

OH, MY GOD! ESPY MUST HAVE BEEN MUGGED OR EVEN KILLED!
I JUST KNEW SOMETHING BAD WAS HAPPENING TO HER! I KNEW IT – I KNEW IT!
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY, ZORINA. YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THAT ESPERANZA CAN HANDLE HERSELF
"WE CAN'T LET OUR EMOTIONS BEAT OUT COMMON SENSE. HER TRAIL IS STILL WARM.. BESIDES – WE STILL HAVE OTHER LEADS TO FOLLOW UP ON."
WHAT LEADS..?
THE BERESFORD BUILDING AT 211 CENTRAL PARK WEST
A CALL CAME IN OVER THE RADIO OF A YOUNG BRUNETTE WHO FOUGHT HER WAY PAST THE DOORMAN ABOUT HALF AN HOUR AGO
IT COULD BE HER.

HIGH WITHIN THE BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAINS OF COLORADO...
..LIES AN AREA OF LAND OFF LIMITS TO THE PUBLIC.
AN ARTIFICIAL PARADISE GONE WRONG.
NOW JUST AN OBLITERATED SHELL OF WHAT ONCE WAS A TOWN CALLED...
...SPRINGDALE.
WELL DONE!
IS MY ASSUMPTION CORRECT THAT THE DARKK-CORE IS INTACT?
YES, GOZZA. FROM THE LOOKS OF IT...I'D SAY IT'S ALSO FULLY OPERATIONAL.

GOOD FOR ME BAD FOR THOSE STUPID IDIOTS THAT RUN YOUR GOVERNMENT
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT ALL THAT POWER...ALL OF THOSE ALIEN GENES EVERYTHING THAT THEY WANTED FROM RHAZES DARKK WAS UNDER THEIR NOSES ALL THIS TIME!
THEY NEVER SUSPECTED THAT RHAZES BUILT SPRINGDALE OVER KEY SECTIONS OF HIS CRASHED ALIEN SPACECRAFT
ONCE PLANTED INTO THE GROUND AND FED ENERGY FROM DARKKLON'S COMPLEX, THE ROOTS BEGAN TO SPREAD AND GROW UNDER EARTH'S VERY SOIL
THE CORE OF DARKK'S SHIP IS THE CENTER OF THE POWER SOURCE. ONCE I TAP INTO IT. I'LL BE THE ONE WITH TOTAL CONTROL OVER THE FORCE THAT RHAZES BROUGHT TO EARTH!

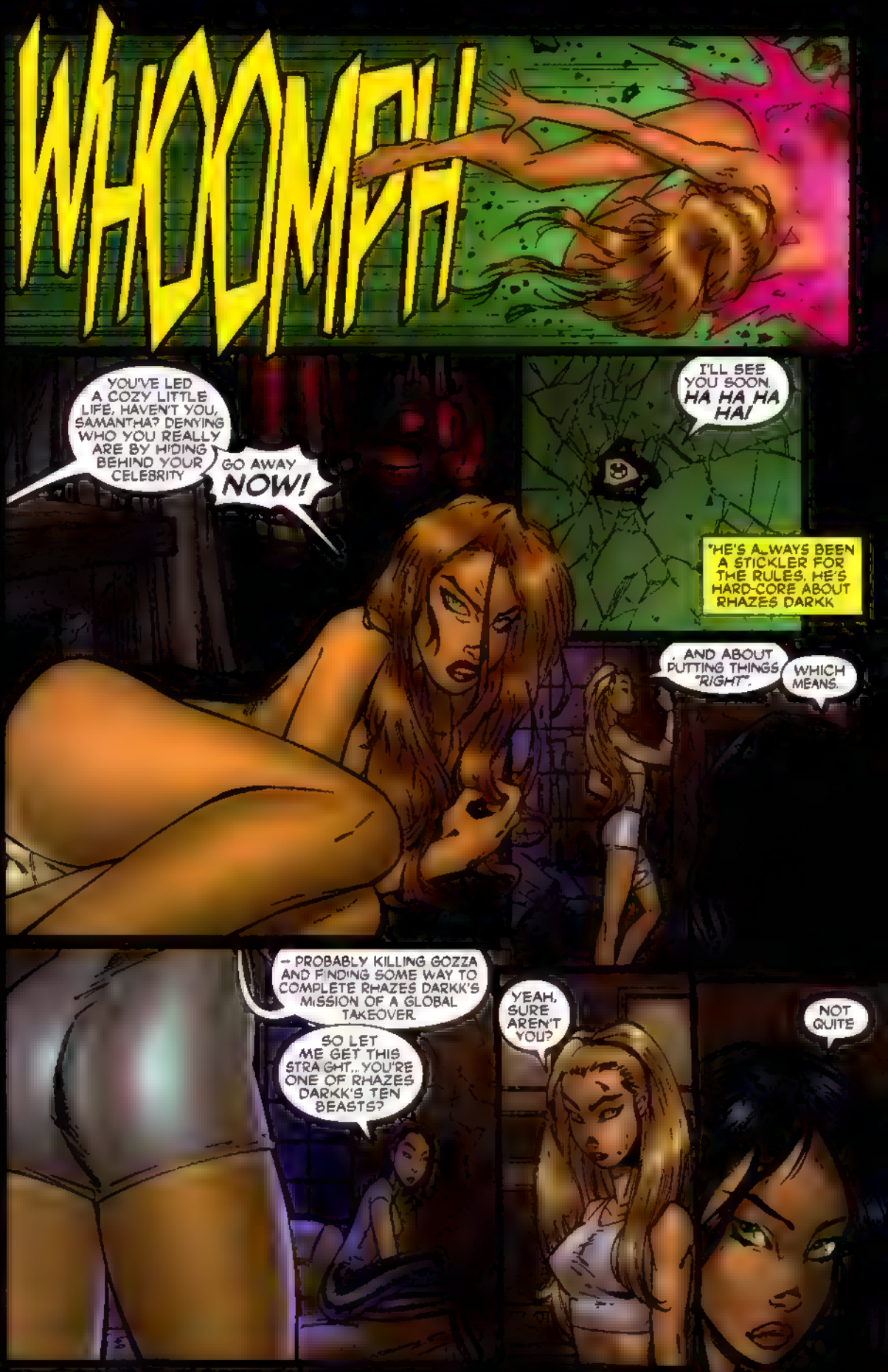
THIS SHOULD TAKE CARE OF YOUR ARM.
WOW! IT DOESN'T HURT ANYMORE
I KNOW
I COULD'VE SWORN IT WAS BROKEN...
IT WAS BROKEN. IT'S AN OLD TRICK THAT I LEARNED -- DON'T ASK ME HOW I DID IT, OKAY?
OKAY. I WON'T.
I ASSUME WE BOTH CAME HERE FOR THE SAME REASON -- TO FIND OUT IF IT WAS TRUE ABOUT RHAZES DARKK. JUDGING FROM THE LOOK OF HIS PAD, I'D SAY THE RUMOR IS TRUE
RHAZES DARKK MUST BE DEAD.. HE WAS ALWAYS SUCH A NEAT FREAK.
I'M NOT HERE FOR RHAZES . I CAME TO FIND MY FRIEND.. VICTOR DE LEON.
IT CERTAINLY LOOKS AS THOUGH VICTOR WAS HERE .
.TELL ME, ELIX R... WHAT [redacted] DO YOU HAVE WITH RHAZES DARKK?

IT'S A LONG STORY BUT I GUESS I CAN FILL YOU IN
". I WAS IN THAILAND TWO DAYS AGO, KICKING THE ASS OF A HUNGARIAN "GRAPPLER" IN THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST STREET-FIGHTING TOURNAMENT
"I WAS IN A PARTICULARLY BAD MOOD THAT DAY, AS I RECALL.
"I ALWAYS GET GRUMPY AT THE END OF A THREE WEEK INTER-CONTINENTAL BATTLE TOUR BUT THIS WAS MORE THAN MY USUAL CRANKINESS
"I COULDN'T PUT MY FINGER ON IT
"I FELT AS THOUGH I LOST A LOVED ONE OR SOMETHING
" BUT WHEN HE SHOWED UP
" IT SUDDENLY BEGAN TO MAKE SENSE

RAMSAR
THE HIGHLANDER FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA!
GOOD FIGHT, AS USUAL, SAMANTHA.
I TRUST IT THAT YOU'VE HEARD THAT OUR SUPREME MASTER HAS BEEN DESTROYED.
YOUR LITTLE FRIEND, GOZZA, IS RUNNING AROUND CLAIMING RHAZES' WORK AS HIS OWN NOW
KICKBOXING INTERNATIONAL
NO I HAD NO IDEA. I REALLY DON'T CARE EITHER.
I'VE DISTANCED MYSELF FROM HIM AND THE OTHER NINE. I INTEND TO KEEP IT THAT WAY
YOU MAY HAVE FOOLED THE OTHERS, ELIXIR...
BUT I KNOW WHOSE SIDE YOU'VE BEEN ON ALL ALONG
Gozza!
AHHH!

ALL OF YOU FOOLS HAVE BETRAYED OUR FATHER!
SMASH
KEEP ME OUT OF YOUR CIVIL WAR, RAMSAR
YOU MAY THINK WE ARE THE "CHOSEN ONES" --
-- THAT WE SHOULD EMBRACE OUR ROLES.
BUT NOT ME...
-- I DIDN'T ASK TO BE LIKE THIS!
ARRGGHH
THWMP

HA HA HA HA!
I DON'T COME TO KILL YOU. OTHERWISE YOU'D BE DEAD AND I'D BE EATING YOUR SOUL.
I WILL BE BACK.
FOR NOW I HAVE URGENT BUSINESS THAT NEEDS MY ATTENTION. GOZZA MUST BE STOPPED AND RHAZES POWER MUST FALL INTO PROPER HANDS MINE.
THE NEXT TIME WE MEET YOU WILL MAKE A DECISION.
EITHER JOIN ME OR DIE!
HAHAHAHAHA
BASTARD! I'D RATHER DIE THAN LIVE LIKE YOU --
SHRIEK
OHHH!


WHOOMPH!
YOU'VE LED A COZY LITTLE LIFE, HAVEN'T YOU, SAMANTHA? DENYING WHO YOU REALLY ARE BY HIDING BEHIND YOUR CELEBRITY
GO AWAY NOW!
I'LL SEE YOU SOON. HA HA HA HA!
"HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A STICKLER FOR THE RULES. HE'S HARD-CORE ABOUT RHAZES DARKK
, AND ABOUT PUTTING THINGS "RIGHT".
WHICH MEANS...
-- PROBABLY KILLING GOZZA AND FINDING SOME WAY TO COMPLETE RHAZES DARKK'S MISSION OF A GLOBAL TAKEOVER.
SO LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.. YOU'RE ONE OF RHAZES DARKK'S TEN BEASTS?
YEAH, SURE AREN'T YOU?
NOT QUITE

TRUST ME, HONEY. YOU'VE GOT SOME OF OUR BLOOD RUNNING THROUGH THOSE VEINS OF YOURS. I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY -- -- BUT I KNOW I'M RIGHT ABOUT YOU
YOU DON'T HAVE A CLUE AS TO WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME!
YOU MAY BE RIGHT BUT THEN...HOW DID I KNOW YOU WERE IN THE ELEVATOR SHAFT?
THIS IS COMPLETELY LUDICROUS! THIS CONVERSATION IS
OVER!
I SMELLED YOU.
...THAT'S HOW I KNEW YOU WERE COMING. I CAN SMELL OUR OWN KIND
DO I NEED TO SHOW YOU A MIRROR? JUST LOOK AT YOURSELF!
AND I THOUGHT I WAS IN DENIAL

"THE DARKK-CORE ISN'T FAR, GOZZA."
"HA HA! I CAN FEEL IT'S ENERGY PULLING US LIKE MAGNETS!"
"TELL ME... WHAT EXACTLY IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS "DARKK-CORE"?"
THE CORE IS THE MAIN SOURCE OF ENERGY THAT RHAZES IMPLANTED IN THE EARTH BEFORE HE AND YOUR GOVERNMENT BUILT SPRINGDALE. HE KEPT IT A SECRET AND BUILT SPRINGDALE ON TOP OF IT
HE DID A LOT OF GREAT THINGS IN HIS TIME. BUT HE FAILED HERE
HOW?
HE COULDN'T IMPLANT THE NECESSARY COMPONENTS TO MAKE THE POWER IN THE DARKK-CORE ACTIVE
SO IT WENT TO WASTE
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? I FEEL THE WALLS MOVING!
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
SCREE
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY ARE!

NEVER MIND THEM, VICTOR THEY'RE ONLY DOING THEIR JOB PROTECTING THE CORE.
BUT I HAVE THE KEY! THIS IS ALL WE'LL NEED TO CAPTURE THE CORE'S POWER AND GET OUT OF HERE IN ONE PIECE!
SCREE
THEY WILL GO AWAY NOW
I DIDN'T HAVE THE KEY WHEN I TUNNELED THROUGH HERE... WHY DIDN'T THEY ATTACK ME?
LOOK!
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THE POWER ONCE YOU'VE STOLEN IT, GOZZA?
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT *STEALING*?
A PERSON CAN'T *STEAL* WHAT IS OWED HIM. *CAN* HE?
I AM THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO RHAZES DARKK'S THRONE. AFTER ALL, NOW THERE WILL BE *NOTHING* STANDING IN MY WAY OF *ULTIMATE* CONTROL!
IF RHAZES DARKK DIDN'T HAVE THE NECESSARY COMPONENTS TO ACTIVATE THE DARKK-CORE...HOW DO *YOU* GET AT IT'S POWER?
OH, THAT'S EASY.. WITH THE *SEED*. AND BY WAY OF GOOD FORTUNE I HAVE BROUGHT THE SEED *HERE* FOR IT'S *PLANTING*.
"SHE WAS TRYING TO GET UP TO SEE RHAZES DARKK – I TRIED TO TELL HER THAT THE PORTION OF THE BUILDING HE OWNS WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND THAT SHE WASN'T ALLOWED ACCESS..
BUBBLE GU
"SHE WENT UP ANYWAY"

JUST TELL US WHERE TO FIND HER AND WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY. TWENTY-FIFTH FLOOR YOU SAID. RIGHT?
I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T LET YOU IN EITHER
IT IS STRINGENT POLICY NOT TO LET UNWANTED VISITORS IN THE BUILDING. IF YOU TRY TO GO UP, I WILL STOP THE ELEVATOR BEFORE IT REACHES YOUR DESTINATION.
LISTEN UP, CAPTAIN KANGAROO -- EITHER YOU LET US UP, OR I BEAT THE SH--
DOINK
I'LL HANDLE THIS, ZORINA.
LET US UP RIGHT NOW.
CIA
"OUR FRIEND MAY BE IN GRAVE DANGER."
KA-WHAM
OHHH!
I KNOW ABOUT YOUR KIND, ESPERANZA.
YOU HAVE A LOT OF POWER BURRIED DEEP INSIDE OF YOU.

YOU COULD HELP ME BUT FIRST I NEED TO HELP YOU REALIZE YOUR FULL POTENTIAL.
DON'T WORRY THIS WON'T HURT A BIT

SAM? I NEED TO BORROW ONE OF YOUR GUNS THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT WE'LL FIND UP THERE
SAM?
NO, ZORINA. YOU'RE NOT EXPER ENCED ENOUGH.
AND I NEED A CLEAR HEAD
I'M SURE THAT WHATEVER WE FIND UP THERE I CAN HANDLE IT.
LOOK HERE, PAL.
ESPY IS MY BEST FRIEND SHE WOULD WANT ME TO HAVE A GUN, SAM JAFFE!
SLAM
NOW GIVE IT HERE!

OKAY SO I LIED. IT DOES HURT
BUT IT'LL BE SO WORTH IT!
AAIEEE!
YOU CAN REPAY THE FAVOR LATER WHEN I NEED YOU.
IMAGINE HOW POWERFUL YOU'LL BE!
"I JUST WISH I COULD BE HERE WHEN YOU BLOSSOM!
OH, WELL – I'LL BE SEEING YOU SOON ENOUGH!

DNG
25
REMEMBER, DON'T SHOOT UNLESS I TELL YOU TO
YEAH, RIGHT
WHAT HAPPENED HERE? THIS PLACE IS IN SHAMBLES!
LOOKS LIKE ESPY WAS HERE ALL RIGHT
BE VERY CAREFUL, ZORINA. IT'S HARD TO SEE IN HERE AND PLEASE PUT THE GUN DOWN...!
SAM! I THINK I HEAR SOMETHING!
SHKK SHKK SHK
IT'S COMING FROM OVER THERE!
ZORINA! NO! WAIT FOR ME!
STUFF IT!
OH, MY GOD!

ESPY!
SHE'S
DEAD!
To Be Continued in:
THE
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THE BLACK FURROW
#3!

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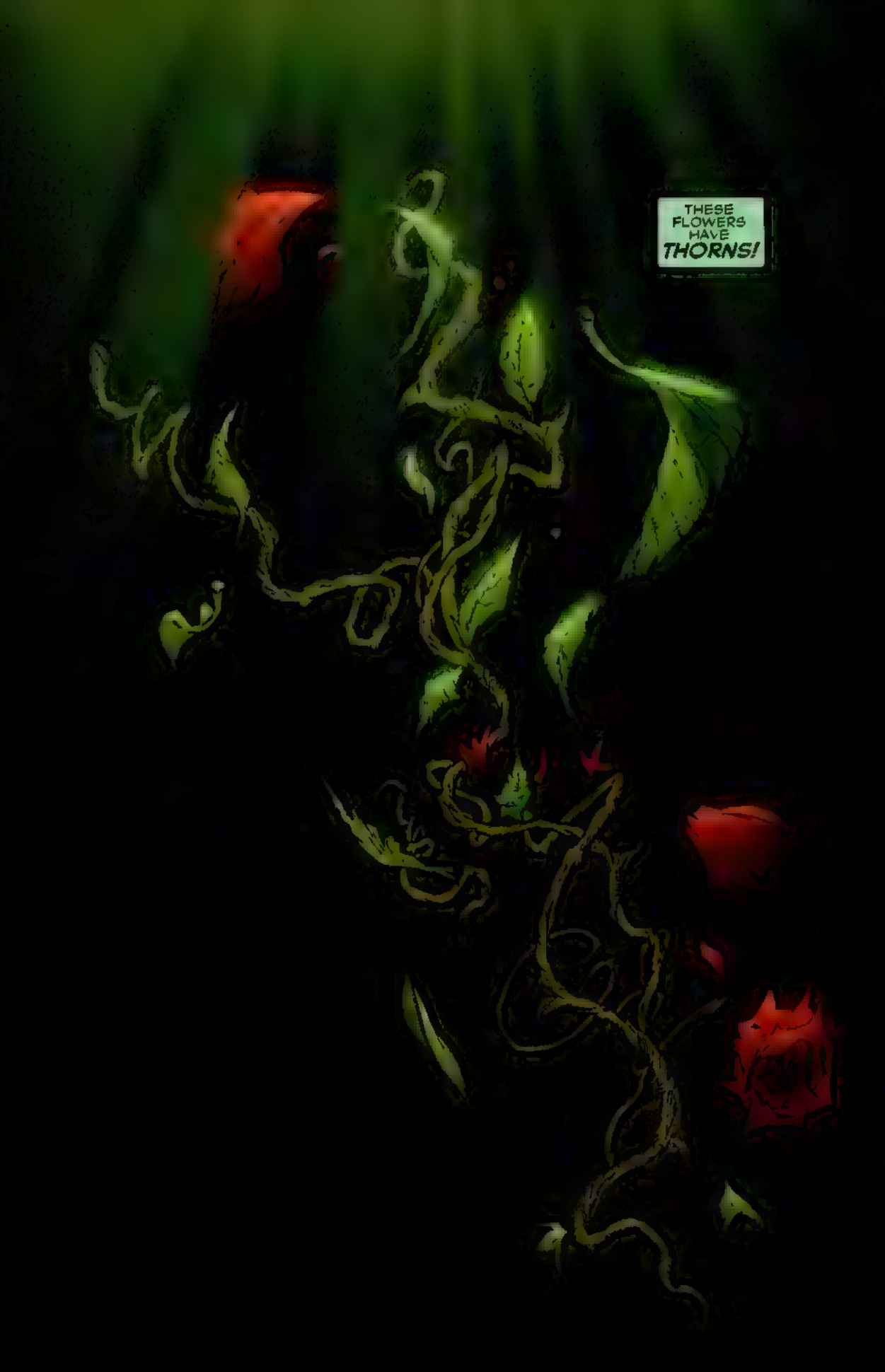
image

SOMETIMES, THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND PEACEFUL SETTINGS CAN BE DECEIVING.
ONCE IN A WHILE, IF YOU LOOK BEYOND THE SCENIC TREE- LINED HILLS AND PINE TREES...
...YOU MAY FIND THAT UNDERNEATH IT ALL LIES HORRORS UNFATHOMABLE TO MAN.
AND SOMETIMES THESE HORRORS...
...CAN BE CREATED FROM MAN.
-- DON'T THINK THIS IS THE PLACE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, GOZZA.

THIS IS THE PLACE, ALL RIGHT WELL, CLOSE ENOUGH, ANYWAY LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE END FOR US, I GUESS.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? I THOUGHT YOU WERE TRYING TO FIND THE DARKK-CORE?
OH, I HAVE FOUND IT.
..IT'S JUST THAT WE CAN'T BE FRIENDS ANYMORE
FOR THE BETTERMENT OF MY MISSION AND FOR THE WELL BEING OF THE REST OF RHAZES DARKK'S CHILDREN, I HAVE NO CHOICE
GOZZA...YOU ARE VERY SMART. BUT I KNEW ALL ALONG THIS DAY WAS COMING. I KNEW THERE WOULD COME A TIME WHEN I WOULD BE FORCED TO ACCEPT THE ROLE THAT WAS CREATED FOR ME.
GOOD!
SHEZAM
ARRRHH!

I NEVER SAID I WOULD ACCEPT MY ROLE WILLINGLY!
CHEATER! YOU TRIED TO TRICK ME!
WHOOMM
I BELIEVED YOU! YOU MUST'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THE PERFECT CHANCE TO WIPE ME OUT!
WELL YOU WAITED TOO LONG..
I'LL STILL GET WHAT I CAME FOR YOU WILL BE AN INTEGRAL PART WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT!
THE DARKK-CORE IS AWAITING ITS SEED.

"IT IS AWAITING. YOU!"
CAN IT BE? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT .. BUT THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION.
I'M IN HEAVEN
IT'S BEAUTIFUL! IT'S JUST AS I ALWAYS IMAGINED.
EVERYTHING IS SO
PRETTY!
OUCH!
I'M BLEEDING!


THESE FLOWERS HAVE THORNS!

DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
HOW CAN IT BE ?
THIS ISN'T HEAVEN.
I MUST BE IN HELL!
WOOSHH
THIS DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!
IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO, MY SWEET!

WHEN HAS ANYTHING IN YOUR LIFE EVER MADE SENSE?!
BLACKSPELL!
NOW I KNOW I'M IN HELL!
YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, ESPERANZA. YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY...IF YOU WANT TO SAVE VICTOR
SAVE VICTOR?! WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU? IS HE DOWN HERE SOMEWHERE WITH US?
NOT YET!
VICTOR IS ABOUT TO DIE...
...GOZZA HAS TAKEN HIM BENEATH SPRINGDALE TO STEAL ALL THAT RHAZES DARKK HAS CREATED.
IF THE DARKK-CORE IS TURNED ACTIVE, GOZZA WILL HAVE ALL THE POWER THAT RHAZES DARKK EVER DREAMED OF!

GOZZA HAS DECEIVED US ALL. WE THOUGHT THE DOWNFALL OF RHAZES WAS ESSENTIAL IN REALIZING OUR OPERATION. WE WERE WRONG.
GOZZA IS SEEKING TO BE THE SOLE CONTROLLER OF THE POWER.
"KEEPING VICTOR AWAY FROM THE DARKK-CORE IS THE ONLY WAY TO STOP GOZZA FROM UNLEASHING IT!
"AND FROM USING IT ON US AS WELL AS ALL OF MANKIND.
"YOU HAVE A TOUGH CHOICE TO MAKE. MY DARLING...
"RETRIEVE VICTOR DELEON FROM GOZZA'S GRASP..

...OR GOZZA WILL RULE THE EARTH!"
AAHHH!
ESPY?
WHA-WHAT'S HAPPENED?
OH, ESPY! I WAS AFRAID YOU'D NEVER COME TO!
I-I THOUGHT YOU WERE
IT'S OKAY, Z I'M GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT
YOU HAD US QUITE WORRIED, ESPERANZA.
WE'RE JUST THANKFUL WE FOUND YOU WHEN WE DID.
I'M AFRAID THAT WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME IT'S UNSAFE FOR US TO BE HERE AND THE FRIENDS I HAVE AT THIS HOSPITAL ARE GETTING QUITE NERVOUS ABOUT YOUR STAYING HERE
GET DRESSED I'LL BE OUTSIDE THE DOOR

I DON'T REMEMBER MUCH OF ANYTHING. HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN HERE?
ABOUT SIX HOURS.
I'M SORRY THAT I RAN AWAY FROM YOU, ZORINA. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT I NEEDED TO FIX THINGS ON MY OWN. YOU KNOW?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, KIDDO. JUST DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND EVER AGAIN. YOU CAN'T FORGET THAT WE CARE ABOUT YOU AND THAT WE'RE A TEAM. WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER, RIGHT
THANK YOU, ZORINA. YOU'RE MY BEST AND ONLY FRIEND
I MAY BE YOUR BEST FRIEND, BUT I BROUGHT SOMEBODY HERE WHO'D BEG TO DIFFER
MEEOOOW!
ARUSA!
HEE HEE! I PROMISE TO NEVER LEAVE YOU BEHIND EITHER, ARUSA. I MISSED YOU TERRIBLY!

ZORINA... I CAN'T EXPLAIN HOW OR WHY...
BUT I HAVE TO GO SOMEWHERE I THINK I KNOW WHERE VICTOR IS AND I FEEL HE'S IN GREAT PAIN.
"WE HAVE TO GO BACK TO SPRINGDALE."

YOU'RE NOT VERY NICE, MR. DeLEON. YOU TRIED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MY KINDNESS. SUCH AN HONORABLE POSITION YOU HOLD AND YOU ARE TOO BLIND TO SEE IT!

THE ONLY HONOR I CAN HAVE IS TO RIP YOUR LITTLE BODY TO SHREDS!

FAT CHANCE YOU'LL HAVE!

"FINALLY, YOU'LL LEARN YOUR TRUE PURPOSE

"I BETCHA NEVER EVEN KNEW IT, DIDJA?

"YOU NEVER KNEW THAT THE REASON WHY RHAZES CREATED YOU WAS FOR --

"REBIRTH!"

AHHHH

BUT DON'T WORRY. I DON'T WANT TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD WITH DARKK'S SPECIES YET!
I WANT US ALL TO LIVE IN HARMONY
I WANT US TO GROW TOGETHER AS A PEOPLE
THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO INSURE OUR SURVIVAL! FOR US TO MERGE AS A WHOLE NEW SPECIES!
IT WON'T WORK, GOZZA -- YOU'LL KILL EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET, EVEN YOURSELF!
WELL, I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES!
*AFTER ALL, I HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE!
THE DARKK-CORE IS READY FOR YOU, VICTOR. READY FOR ITS SEED AND I AM READY TO BE KING OF THE WORLD!

THUD
ARGGH!
KING OF FOOLS, MAYBE, GOZZA
ROBOT GIRL?
NO MY NAME IS SABINA YOU MAY CALL ME ADRENALYNN. OR BETTER YET
...CALL ME YOUR KILLER!

REALLY? THAT'S FUNNY
THAT'S MY NAME TOO
AND SINCE IT'S KIND OF CONFUSING FOR US BOTH TO CALL OURSELVES "KILLER"
CRCK CRICKK
" THEN ONE OF US HAS TO GO!"
CRCK
CRICKKK
CRICKK
I'LL BE GLAD TO SHOW YOU THE DOOR, PIPSQUEEK --

-- TO HELL!
BE SURE TO SAY HELLO TO RHAZES DARKK
WHUMP
WHOOSH
NOT BAD --
-- FOR A GIRL!
FIRE?!

I GOTTA GIVE YOU CREDIT...YOU GOT SPUNK!
BUT NOW YOU KNOW I WEAR MANY HATS, ROBOT GIRL...
FIRE
EARTH
WIND
OH! AND MY FAVORITE --
-- ICE!
"AN AVALANCHE SEEMS LIKE A FUN WAY TO GO "
AAAHH!!
BUT NOT AS FUN AS OTHER WAYS I KNOW!

HOW 'BOUT IT, VICTOR ? ARE YOU HAVING FUN?!
ARRGHHH!
"CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY, VICTOR
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT A MAN GETS THE CHANCE TO RESHAPE THE UNIVERSE'S DESTINY!
KRSH!
OH. AND I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOU GET PROPER CREDIT WHEN WE'RE THROUGH.

NOOOOO!
TO BE CONCLUDED IN:
THE TENTH
THE BLACK EMBRACE
#4!

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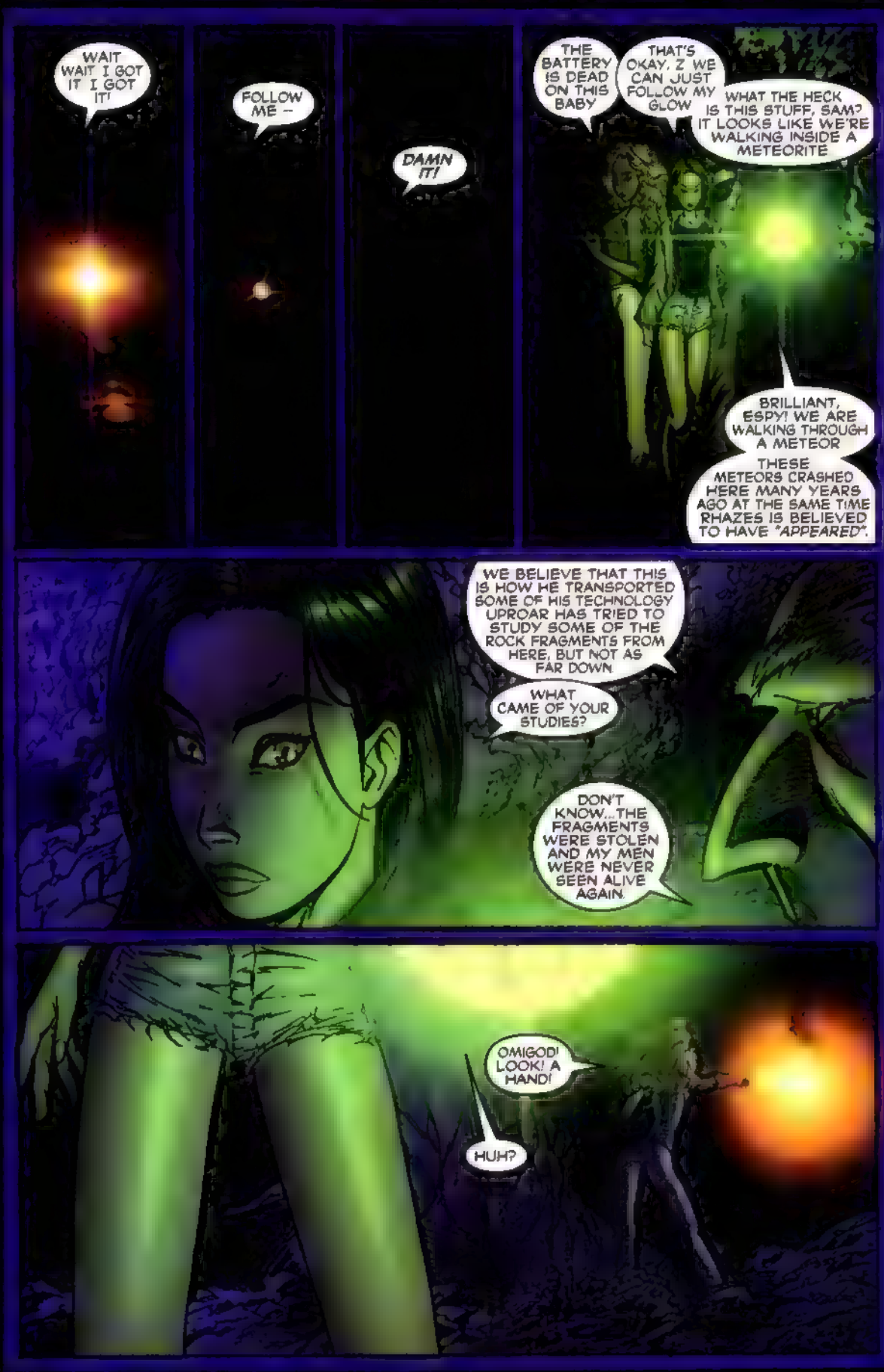
SPRINGDALE.
THANKS FOR HAVING FAITH IN ME, GUYS.
VICTOR IS HERE AND HE ISN'T ALONE EITHER
I JUST HOPE THAT HE'LL RECOGNIZE US WHEN AND IF WE FIND HIM.
YOU THINK HE'S CHANGED THAT MUCH?..THAT HE WON'T EVEN KNOW
I DON'T KNOW, SWEETHEART BUT WE NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR WHAT WE'LL FIND HERE
UH -- HOW ABOUT A LITTLE POSITIVITY UP HERE, FELLAS? GOOD OL' VIC HE'LL REMEMBER US AND HE'LL COME BEGGING FOR FORGIVENESS.
RIGHT?

"I'M NOT SURE WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND, ZORINA.
"BUT I AM SURE OF ONE THING...
"THAT IF ESPY'S RIGHT.. AND GOZZA DID TAKE VICTOR DOWN UNDER THE DARKKLON COMPLEX*...
"THE POSSIBILITY OF GLOBAL DISASTER IS CLOSER THAN WE EVER THOUGHT ZORINA."
AAAAARRGHH!
THAT'S IT, BABY! YOU'RE MINE NOW!
KROOOOMM

THAT WASN'T SO HARD
WUZ IT?
RHAZES DARKK WAS AN OLD FOOL!
ZZZSHEEEEER
THIS IS SO SIMPLE, IT'S ALMOST A JOKE!
YOU MAY DIE NOW
UHHH!
AND DON'T THINK I DON'T APPRECIATE IT!

WHA -- WHAT THE HECK IS HAPPENING TO THE TALAS?!
HEY!
LITTLE KIDS SHOULDN'T GO PLAYING WITH SHARP OBJECTS.
SO I'LL BE HOLDING ON TO THIS UNTIL YOU GROW UP OKAY, SON?
COME OUT OF THERE COWARD!
THAT BELONGS TO ME!
YOU ARE WRONG THERE, CHILD
RAMSAR!
IT BELONGS TO US ALL.

AND SINCE YOU TRIED TO ABUSE THE POWER AND USE IT FOR YOUR OWN GAINS
I WILL SEEK JUSTICE ON BEHALF OF DARKK AND ALL HIS CHILDREN.
THE SENTENCE..
DEATH!


WAIT WAIT I GOT IT I GOT IT!
FOLLOW ME --
DAMN IT!
THE BATTERY IS DEAD ON THIS BABY
THAT'S OKAY, Z WE CAN JUST FOLLOW MY GLOW
WHAT THE HECK IS THIS STUFF, SAM? IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE WALKING INSIDE A METEORITE
BRILLIANT, ESPY! WE ARE WALKING THROUGH A METEOR
THESE METEORS CRASHED HERE MANY YEARS AGO AT THE SAME TIME RHAZES IS BELIEVED TO HAVE "APPEARED".
WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS HOW HE TRANSPORTED SOME OF HIS TECHNOLOGY UPROAR HAS TRIED TO STUDY SOME OF THE ROCK FRAGMENTS FROM HERE, BUT NOT AS FAR DOWN.
WHAT CAME OF YOUR STUDIES?
DON'T KNOW...THE FRAGMENTS WERE STOLEN AND MY MEN WERE NEVER SEEN ALIVE AGAIN.
OMIGOD! LOOK! A HAND!
HUH?

UP THERE!
DON'T MOVE!
YIIII!
GIRLS -- GET BEHIND ME!
SAM! NO! WAIT!
THEY'RE NOT ATTACKING
JUST STAY CALM AND STAY CLOSE TO ME WE MUST BE GETTING CLOSER
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. THEY OUTNUMBER US FIVE HUNDRED TO ONE!
I THINK THAT AS FAR AS THEY'RE CONCERNED..

"...WE'RE ON THEIR SIDE."
THE MOST PRECIOUS OF RICHES. I WILL PROTECT THEE.
I WILL MAKE SURE THAT RHAZES DARKK'S PROPHECY IS FULFILLED NOW THAT YOU ARE COMPLETE! HA HA HA HA HA HA!
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
OOOOPH!

CAN'T YOU SEE? RHAZES TRANSFORMED YOU LIKE HE DID ME RHAZES DARKK IS *DEAD*...AND SO SHOULD HIS DREAM DIE
SOMEWHERE DEEP DOWN IN YOU LIES AN INNOCENT PERSON. EVEN IF YOU CAN'T BRING HIM OUT
DO THE RIGHT THING BY HIM.
ZZOOSSSH
HUH?
NICE CATCH, BLONDY!
HEHEHEH! GAME ISN'T OVER YET.
YOU!

'EVENING, BOYS. HOPE YOU DIDN'T MISS ME!
IF I'D HAVE KNOWN YOU INVITED RICKY MARTIN'S GOOD LOOKIN' OLDER BROTHER, I WOULD'A SHOWN UP SOONER!
IT JUST KEEPS GETTING DEEPER! HOW MANY OF US ARE THERE? HOW MANY DID THAT TWISTED BASTARD CREATE?!
I... AM. I AM THE TENTH...
YOU'RE NOT ONE OF US, SEXY SAD BUT TRUE, I KNOW
I A-- WAS THE TENTH, FOOL.
NOW STEP ASIDE

I'M SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, ELIXIR... BUT THERE IS ONLY ONE PERSON WALKING AWAY FROM HERE WITH THAT TALAS, AND ONLY ONE PERSON WILL WALK OUT OF HERE ALIVE!
YOU WILL ALL DIE NOW!
RHAZES DARKK SHALL LIVE WITHIN MY SPIRIT!
ZEEOOSH
YAAAA!!

"AND THAT SPIRIT WILL ENVELOPE YOUR SOUL LIKE THE NIGHT SKY!"
OHH! THIS TICKLES!
YOU'VE JUST ABOUT RUN OUT OF "CUTE".
GOZZA — CATCH!
THIIP
IT'S TOO LATE, RAMSAR I WIN.
NO!
YES!

TOO BAD, HIGHLANDER
YOU WOULD'VE MADE A GREAT ALLY!
AARGH!!
GOZZA, NO!
RRMMBBMLMMBB
WE DID IT! LET'S GET THE TALAS TO SAFETY
YEAH, THERE'S NO TELLIN' WHO WILL POP UP NEXT
HOLD ON A MINUTE THE TALAS. IT'S MOVING !
COOL!
SCREEK
YAAOOOW!
ROOOOR!
NO!
SHPOOOSHH

SORRY TO BE A PARTY POOPER
BUT I GUESS YOU CAN SAY IT'S IN MY BLOOD
ESPY STAY AWAY FROM HERE!

GOOD GOIN', GIRL! THAT THING ALMOST TRIED TO KILL GOZZA!
I KNEW YOU WOULD SHOW UP WHEN I NEEDED YOU MOST. YOU'RE TRULY ONE OF US NOW!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU THINK YOU KNOW ABOUT ME. BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU
I'LL NEVER BE ONE OF YOU
GROAN. I DON'T FEEL TOO HOT!
JUST SIT TIGHT, KIDDO . WE'RE GONNA GET YOU OUTTA HERE IN A JIFFY!
NO YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND
SOMETHING'S CHANGING!
SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME!
THE PAIN!
AARGHH!

VICTOR HOW DO YOU FEEL?
ODD
YOU FEEL ODD?
NO, SAM, IT'S ODD
I FEEL STRANGELY... NORMAL!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?!
I-I DON'T KNOW I'M SCARED!
THE POWER! THE POWER IS IN ME NOW!
YOU WILL ALL SUFFER FOR THIS!

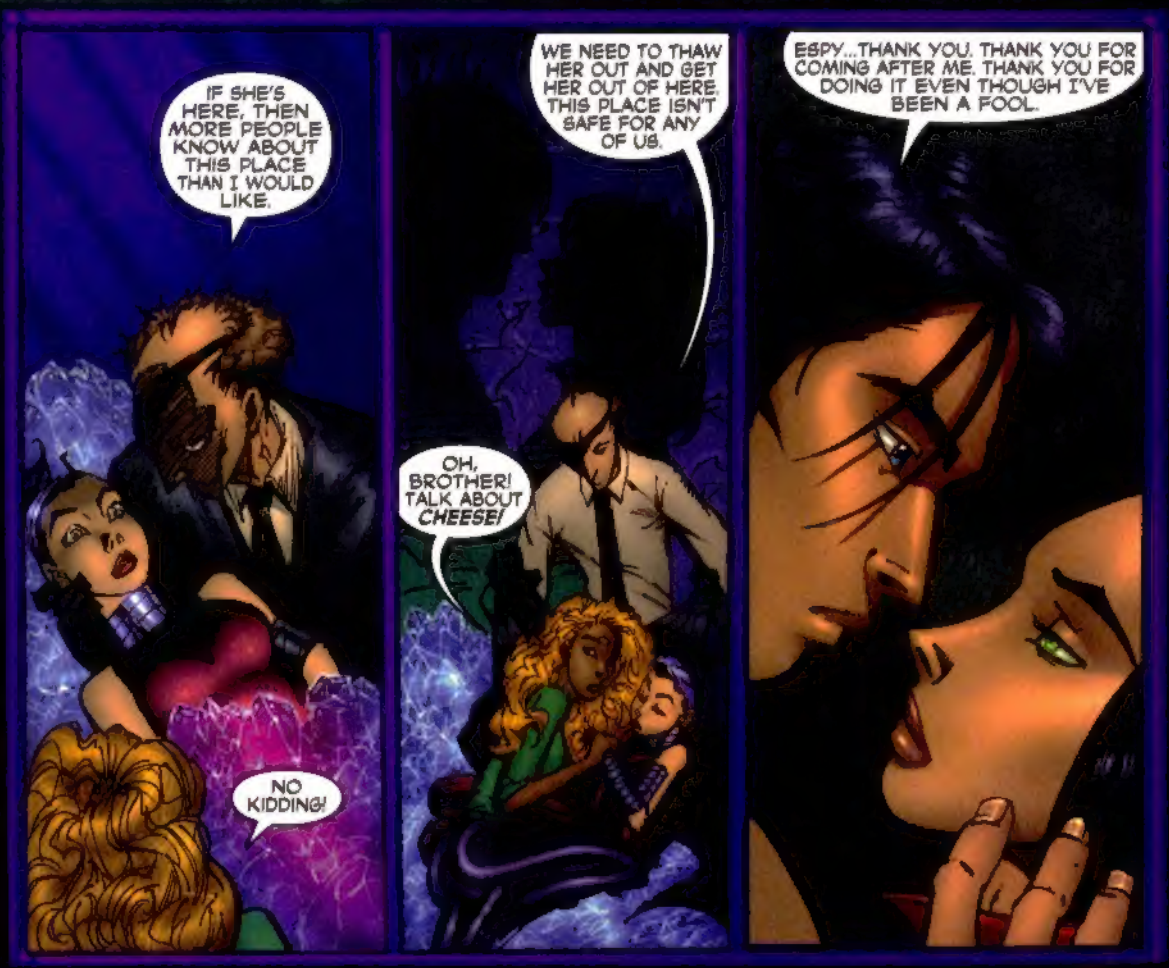
GOZZA! CALM DOWN! AT LEAST WE HAVE IT NOW! WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY!
YOU SLUT! I WANT TO CONTROL THE POWER... NOT BE THE POWER!
THIS IS YOUR FAULT, VICTOR DE LEON! THIS POWER CAN ONLY LIVE WITHIN YOUR BODY... YOU MUST COME WITH ME --
-- WE MUST FIX THIS!
NO, GOZZA! I WILL NEVER ALLOW THAT MONSTER TO HAVE CONTROL OVER ME AGAIN. I'D RATHER DIE!
I'LL TESTIFY TO THAT! HE'D REALLY RATHER DIE!
I'M SURE THAT THAT CAN BE ARRANGED. ALL I'LL NEED IS A LITTLE DNA... THE REST I CAN MAKE UP ON MY OWN...
GOZZA, YOU LITTLE SHIT. YOU'VE BEEN LUCKY THIS FAR. I DON'T BELIEVE IN HARMING CHILDREN.

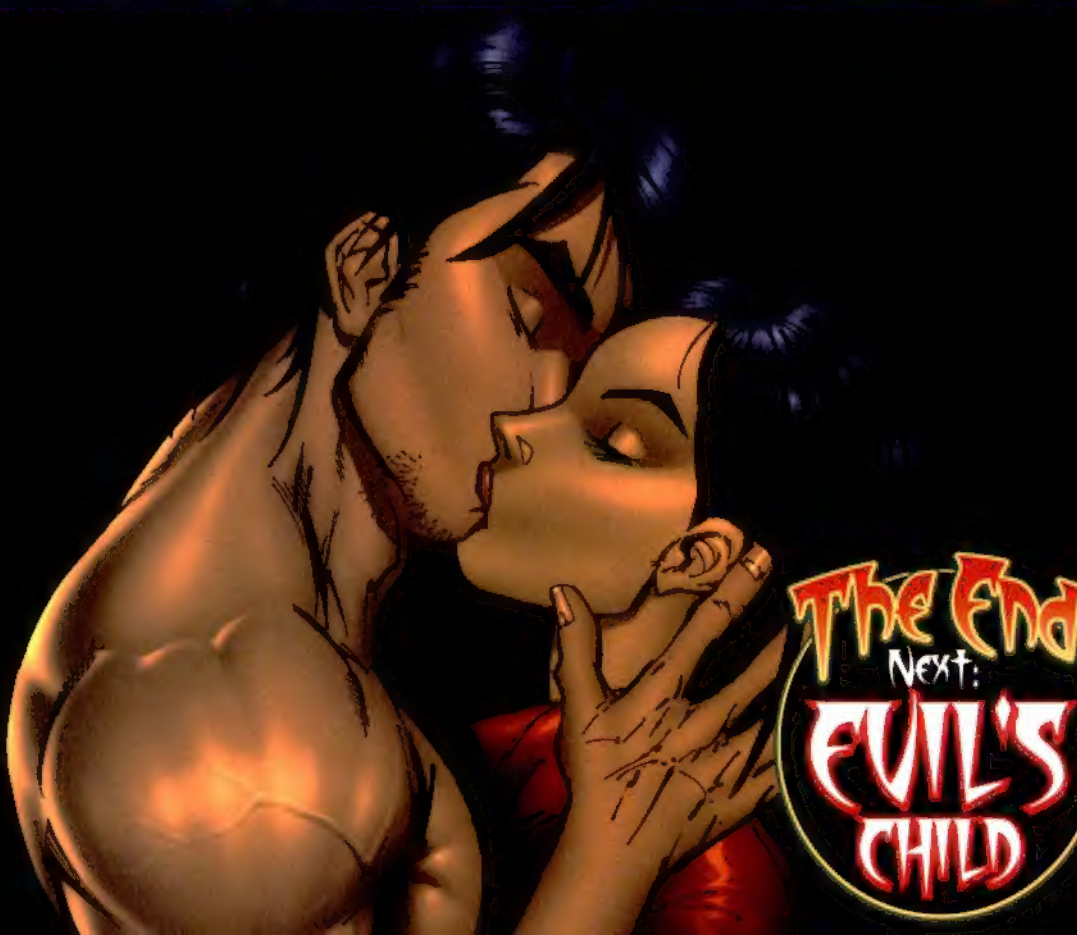
THE PURPOSE FOR MY BEING IS THAT OF PRESERVATION...
URK! UURK!
TO PRESERVE THE LIFE FORMS THAT RHAZES DARKK HAS CREATED... THIS INCLUDES YOU ESPERANZA.
YOU MUST END YOUR DEFIANCE.
NO, GOZZA. YOU CANNOT TR CK ME. WHAT YOU'RE SAYING ISN'T TRUE.
ISN'T IT, ESPERANZA? THEN WHY CAN'T YOU BRING YOURSELF TO KILL ME?
URK! RUURK!
BECAUSE, LIKE VICTOR, YOU ARE AN ORDIINARY PERSON.. A CHILD
YOU HAVE NO CONTROL OVER YOUR SINS, GOZZA. LET US HELP YOU. WE CAN.
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE...
...KILL ME!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HUH?
IT'S THE ONLY WAY OUT AND YOU KNOW IT!
ZORNA GET BACK HERE!

I -:SOB:- CAN'T! YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A STUPID KID!
AM I? OR ARE YOU AFRAID OF SOMETHING ELSE?
THE TRUTH IS... WE ARE BOTH NOT WHAT WE APPEAR TO BE...
WE ARE BOTH MONSTERS!
YOU CAN'T KILL ME... BECAUSE WE ARE THE SAME!
BLAMN
BACK OFF, BOTTLE-NECK!
SCREE
YOU INSIGNIFICANT FLEA!
GOZZA! NOOO!
AHH, SHIII-

SHADOWOWN
STAY AWAY FROM HER YOU FREAKIN' MONSTER!
DEAR GOD.
IT'S CLEAR NOW THAT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A MONSTER...
...HIDING IN A BOY'S BODY...
...IT TOOK THE UGLINESS OF WHAT YOU'VE BECOME TO OPEN MY EYES.
NO!
I AM... JUST LIKE YOU, ESPERANZA...
...AN INNOCENT...
...A LITTLE BOY WHO WANTS HIS MOTHER!
PLEASE... LET ME LIVE...! WE CAN BE FRIENDS!
MOMMY!
GOD, FORGIVE ME...
ESPY!
NO!

ARE YOU OKAY?
NO...
...I DON'T THINK I EVER WILL BE.
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING, ESPY. YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
DID I?
I TRUST YOU. I TRUST YOUR JUDGMENT EVEN MORE THAN MY OWN.
YOU HAVE SAVED THE EARTH...YOU HAVE SAVED... ME.
WHAT IS THIS OVER HERE?!
IT'S ADRENALYNN! AND SHE'S FROZEN SOLID LIKE THAT OTHER CHICK! WHAT'S SHE DOIN' HERE?!


IF SHE'S HERE, THEN MORE PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE THAN I WOULD LIKE.
NO KIDDING!
WE NEED TO THAW HER OUT AND GET HER OUT OF HERE. THIS PLACE ISN'T SAFE FOR ANY OF US.
OH, BROTHER! TALK ABOUT CHEESE!
ESPY...THANK YOU. THANK YOU FOR COMING AFTER ME. THANK YOU FOR DOING IT EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN A FOOL.


The End
Next:
EVIL'S CHILD